

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
SSM-03 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /086 W
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O R 241414Z JUN 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6891
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4622

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IS, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S STATEMENTS RE THE WEST BANK

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN HAS DISCUSSED THE BEGIN GOVERN-
MENT'S APPROACH TO THE WEST BANK ON THREE OCCASIONS THIS
WEEK: IN THE KNESSET ON JUNE 20; IN REMARKS TO MFA
OFFICIALS COVERED BY ISRAELI MEDIA ON JUNE 22; AND IN
AN INTERVIEW THE SAME DAY WITH ABC'S BARBARA WALTERS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE JERUSALEM POST (JUNE 23), DAYAN
TOLD THE MFA STAFF THAT THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT
PROPOSE A PEACE AGREEMENT TO THE ARABS BASED ON THE
PARTITION OF THE WEST BANK. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD AGREED
TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT ON THE PREMISE THAT THE WEST BANK
WOULD REMAIN INTACT UNDER ISRAELI RULE. "THE SOLUTION
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BETWEEN US AND THE ARABS DOES NOT LIE IN THE DIVISION
OF THE WEST BANK." IN BOTH HIS KNESSET REMARKS AND
THE STAREMENT TO THE MFA STAFF,HE CALLED ON ISRAELI
POLITICAL PARTIES TO SUSPEND THEIR INTERNAL DEBATE
ON THE WEST BANK UNTIL SUCH TIME AS EITHER THE U.S.
OR THE ARAB STATES MAKE A CONCRETE PROPOSAL FOR A
PARTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL--I.E., PARTITION. DAYAN

SAID THAT IN THE MEANTIME ISRAELIS SHOULD REMAIN UNITED AGAINST THE ARAB DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL TO THE 1967 BORDERS WITH MINOR ADJUSTMENTS.

3. DAYAN THEN TOLD ABC'S BARBARA WALTERS THAT "EVERYTHING WAS NEGOTIABLE" BUT THAT ISRAEL WOULD OPPOSE JORDANIAN ANNEXATION OF THE WEST BANK. ASKED BY WALTERS SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THE WEST BANK WAS NEGOTIABLE, HE SAID, "ABSOLUTELY. IT WAS OPEN TO NEGOTIATIONS, AS ARE ALL OF THE TERRITORIES."

4. HAARETZ'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARGALIT REPORTS JUNE 24 THAT DAYAN'S REMARKS HAVE CREATED CONFUSION IN WASHINGTON AS TO THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE WEST BANK. MARGALIT STATES THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE CONVINCED THAT HIS ABC REMARKS REFLECT THE TRUE POSITION OF ISRAEL. SIMILARLY, AL HAMISHMAR'S WOLF BLITZER REPORTS THAT DAYAN'S CONFLICTING SIGNALS ARE SOWING CONFUSION IN THE ADMINISTRATION, THE CONGRESS AND THE JEWISH LEADERSHIP. BLITZER WRITES THAT U.S. OFFICIALS REREGARD DAYAN'S REMARKS TO THE MFA STAFF AS INTENDED FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND AS CONSTITUTING ONLY A TOUGH OPENING STANCE. A DAVAR EDITORIAL TODAY CHARGES THAT DAYAN'S CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS MAY THICKEN THE MIST REGARDING ISRAELI INTENTIONS BUT DO NOT INCREASE THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S CREDIBILITY.

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5. WE HAVE NOT TALKED TO DAYAN ABOUT THESE STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, THEY APPEAR TO US AS CONSISTENT WITH HIS THINKING ON THE WEST BANK ISSUE BEFORE HE BECAME FOREIGN MINISTER. MOREOVER, THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO US TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH EACH OTHER, AS SUGGESTED BY THE MARGALIT ARTICLE. THERE IS NO INCONSISTENCY, IN OUR VIEW, BETWEEN HIS STATEMENT THAT THE WEST BANK IS OPEN AS A TOPIC FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND HIS STATEMENT THAT HE DOES NOT REGARD PARTITION AS AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. DAYAN HAS LONG FAVORED A SO-CALLED FUNCTIONAL SOLUTION IN WHICH ISRAEL WOULD RETAIN MILITARY CONTROL OVER THE WEST BANK WHILE JORDAN WOULD DEEPEN AND EXTEND ITS ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL. WEST BANK RESIDENTS, UNDER THIS APPROACH, WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETAIN THEIR JORDANIAN CITIZENSHIP AND BE REPRESENTED IN THE JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT. (AT THE SAME TIME, ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK WOULD REMAIN.) WHEN DAYAN TOLD WALTERS THAT EVERYTHING IS OPEN TO NEGOTIATION, WE BELIEVE THAT HE MEANS THAT THE ARABS CAN PROPOSE AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK AND ISRAEL CAN PROPOSE A FUNCTIONAL ARRANGEMENT; BOTH APPROACHES CAN THEN BE THRASHED OUT AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. IN SUM, AT THIS STAGE

WE WOULD NOT REACH THE CONCLUSION SUGGESTED IN THE
MARGALIT ARTICLE, NEMELY THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED
IN THE ABC INTERVIEW SUPERSEDE OR CANCEL OUT HIS OTHER
STATEMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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